

THE HINDOO PATRIOT

With which is incorporated the Indian Field.

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Per Annum in Advance.
TOWN.....11-8
MOFUSSIL.....13-4

THE WEEK.

MONDAY, 22ND DECEMBER.

SAYS A contemporary:—"We gladly cull the following from a first class British journal. The piece seems specially written for us and at this very time. The insolence of office is homogeneous all the world over. The Indian bureaucracy have many points in common with officialdom in Greece:

Translated from the Greek.

"Twas a Minister addressed me, with a radiant face of joy,
"Soutsoz," cried he, friend of freedom, glorious news
I bring o'd boy.
I have framed a law, a Press law, fifteen Articles comprising
And, by dint of my devising
Freedom's granted to the Press!—provided that you use no
slighting

*Language of a State official,
Or of any functionary, Ministerial or Judicial,
Freedom's granted to the Press,—provided you refrain from
writing.*

I've a brother who's a Prefect, quite a prodigy of zeal;
And my cousin holds a valuable Judgeship of Appeal.
I, too, have some tidy pickings in my own snug sinecure,
Still, I dote on free discussion, gagging I can not endure.
Freedom's granted to the Press! &c.

There's a friend of mine, a colleague, who is always in a
fright.
Lest his shady antecedents should be dragged into the light,
Well, the other day I heard him loudly 'gainst the Papers
bellow.

Sir, I did my very utmost to suppress the stupid fellow.
Freedom's granted to the Press! &c.

Henceforth at your writing-table you can sit and freely bait
us.

In your choicest doggerel state us,
Anything that doesn't please you, any aggravating person,
You may write satiric verse on.
Freedom's granted to the Press! &c.

What on earth delays you, Soutsoz? Speedily your pen-
knife seize.

Point your quill, and place your note-book comfortably on
your knees.

There's red ink, if you prefer it; yes red makes the best
beginning:

Sift us all, and show no quarter or compassion on the sinning.
Freedom's granted to the Press!—provided that you use no
slighting

*Language of a State official,
Or of any functionary, Ministerial or Judicial,
Freedom's granted to the Press!—provided you refrain from
writing.*

C. L. GRAYNE.

Let him take the cap whom it fits."

We take this to be a prophetic poetical version of
Lord Ripon's reply to the address of the Native
Press.

MR. A. MACKENZIE Home Secretary to the Government of India, presided, on Saturday last, at a large and most interesting prize distribution at the Calcutta branch of the American Union Missionary Society. After the report was read the Chairman delivered an able speech. In the course of his address, he said:

Last year my old and much esteemed friend, the Maharani Surnomoye, sent me a deputation of her native Council, asking me what good thing she could do for the women of Bengal. I advised her to endow a female medical school; and on last week I had the gratification of receiving another special message, telling me that she had, as I suggested, given to the Government of Bengal a lakh and a half of rupees for this purpose. Long live the Maharani Surnomoye—simplest-minded, kindest-hearted, of all the great women that India has produced? Nor is the movement confined to the capital where the Chief Justice and other high officers give their leisure to pushing on the work, or to the more advanced metropolitan districts with their thousands of enlightened and active minded native gentlemen. We read of a distant district in East Bengal that a mother and daughter presented themselves there together for examination by the Lower Scholarship Standard, and you will be as glad as was to learn that both mother and daughter passed. These things may seem but straws on the surface of the vast Lethean stream of female ignorance in India, but to a watchful eye, they prove the slow sure set of the current towards the fair open sea of enlightenment and knowledge. Let us remember, moreover, that all great social movements and reforms have connected links and bearings that are not always at first apparent. They, none of them, stand alone or isolated. This movement in favour of female education began, no doubt, many years ago, but until very recently the progress made was, after all, but trifling. I have shown it how it leapt forward last year. Can there be any doubt that it will in the immediate future be largely influenced and stimulated by the remarkable quickening of the native mind which we see going around us? Can we doubt that the leap already made is itself a symptom and consequence of that revival? This is not the time or place for political discussion, but I may perhaps, unobjectionably remark that, after all, one main object of the policy of England in India, as interpreted by the utterances of both Ministers and Parliament, has been to raise the level of enlightenment to something like a European standard. Are we to shrink or turn back now, because we see that the educated Indian is like educated man elsewhere; that he claims his right to formulate judgements; that he even ventures to cherish aspirations? The judgements may at present be crude, the aspirations not always wise or feasible. But the former will not be ripened by

ridicule, or the latter be guided by attempts at repression. The problem of Government has necessarily become more difficult and complex as the social conditions of India grow and develop; but there need be no fear for the Empire while the Government retains its sympathy for its subjects, while it shows itself worthy of the high function it fulfils.

These are noble words nobly said.

TUESDAY, 23RD DECEMBER.

WE HAVE received from the Press Commissioner's Office the following: Memorandum on the Prospects of the Wheat Crop in the Bombay Presidency

The first report on the prospects of the wheat crop in the Bombay Presidency is as follows:—

"Reports not received from Dharwar, Khandesh, Nasik, Satara, Panchmahals, and Sindh.

Ahmedabad.—What area 255,624, acres, or 40 per cent. more than last year owing to favourable late rains; seedlings germinating; young crops thriving. Ahmednagar.—244,671 acres, or 15 per cent. less; in some parts area greater than in last year, in other parts decrease due to want of rain and smaller area devoted to wheat this year. Seeds have germinated in parts; crop good, in others they have withered on account of rain and cloudy weather in November. Kaldgi.—128,662 acres. The crop will be, it is feared, a total failure for sufficient rain. Broach.—11,922 acres, or 55 per cent. more owing to injured cotton land having been re-sown with wheat; crop promising. Belgam.—91,208 acres; sowings have not germinated in all places; crops in places good; in others withering. Poona.—80,000 acres, or 2 per cent. less. Sowings germinated; crops thriving. Solapur.—41,730 acres or 20 per cent. less owing to deficient rainfall. Kaira.—29,781 acres, or 24 per cent. more owing to late favourable rain-fall. Sowings germinated; crop promising.

Generally speaking, the area and condition of the wheat crop are satisfactory in the Guzerat districts; the crop are a and condition in the Deccan and Kanarese districts are unsatisfactory from want of rain."

SAYS THE PIONEER.—"The sanguine expectation that the Report of the Select Committee now sitting in Calcutta on the Bengal Tenancy Bill would be ready by Christmas is not likely to be fulfilled. The fullest liberty of speech is being given to the Opposition on the Committee, and as their policy is to retard the measure as much as possible the progress made is far from rapid. The earlier chapters are, of course, those which are most fought over, and once these are disposed of the work can be rapidly proceeded with; but clause by clause the revised Bill is being contested, and we doubt if one-fourth of the Bill has yet been disposed of. It therefore seems probable, especially with the holiday season coming on, that the final Report cannot be in the hands of the Government until towards the middle of January. Various references have had to be made to the Viceroy on important points, and doubtless when the Committee have finished their labours it will be found that considerable modifications have been made. There is every intention of passing the Bill this session, even if the Legislative Council have to sit into April." Why not pass it under a suspension of the standing orders, or get up a cloture law for the Select Committee and avoid the necessity of examining the law section by section? Any thing will do provided the law is passed and the millennium is established. As for the ryots they are crying and they will be always crying. No civilised Government need listen to them. The zemindars with the power of the purse will find out some means to protect themselves.

THE *Law Times* in speaking of the proceedings in the great legal scandal, the Coleridge libel case, goes so far as to say that they "have struck a blow at the administration of justice more severe than any which has been given in the memory of living lawyers. To leave the question of malice to a jury is to proceed upon the assumption that there is some evidence to go to them." The article goes on to say that the course taken by Mr. Justice Manisty has been "calamitous."

THE BAR at Allahabad is disturbed by the question whether the Legal Remembrancer to Government shall be permitted to plead in the local High Court.

SIR ALFRED LYALL's proposal for the purpose of modifying the absolute power of eviction at present possessed by the talukdars of Oudh has, we are informed, met with some opposition at the hands of the Home authorities. "The measure has been spoken of as moderate and reasonable, but the Secretary of State seems to have been advised that something more drastic was required. Commenting on the subject, a paper says that "the Home authorities will have to be converted to our Lieutenant Governor's views." Unfortunately this

is a feat which is hardly to be regarded as a simple one, even in the strongest of cases."

THE LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR of the North Western Provinces, following the opinion of the Board of Revenue, has given his decision in regard to the stamping of duplicate and triplicate receipts. He has ruled that when the receipts are actually signed by the payee, one of them so signed should be stamped and the others may be unstamped certified copies.

THE NEW SCALE of pensions sanctioned by the Secretary of State's Despatch on the Public Works Reorganisation Scheme is said to apply only to Superintending Engineers originally appointed to the Department by the Secretary of State in England, and to Cooper's Hill men; but the Local Governments are empowered to give officers originally appointed in India, the benefit of the rules in special cases. The proportion of Executive Engineers to Assistants will be considerably increased.

CABUL reports state that the Ameer has been ill lately and unable to hold a durbar. The fact that Russian officers are living in Cabul, and are much trusted by the Ameer, is re-affirmed. The rumour is they are even allowed access to the confidential correspondence which passes between himself and the Government of India. But rumour is but too often as lying jade.

WEDNESDAY, 24TH DECEMBER.

AN INGENIOUS Explanation.—"Very few people know why the room in which a newspaper is made up is called the 'composing room.' The following explains it:—After the paper goes to the press, a copy is brought to the editor, who discovers four or five typographical errors in his leading article, which not only make him say exactly what he didn't intend to say, but arouse a suspicion in the minds of his readers that he must have been under the influence of liquor when he wrote it. He rushes forth with blood in his eye and murder in his heart, and denounces everybody from the foreman down to the 'devil.' It is to the composed manner in which his revellings are received by the intelligent printer that the term 'composing room' is attributed."

REUTER makes the announcement that France is about to appoint a Consul at Rangoon. At other times the proceeding of France would call for no comment. At this particular juncture, however, the appointment of a French Agent at Rangoon has reference less to the prospects of the trade there than to the relations set up by King Theebaw with Paris.

DR. KLEIN, assisted by some of the experts of Calcutta, sought to trace out the connection between an outbreak of cholera in the middle of November last, in Jeleparah Lane, and a tank in the vicinity. He found the comma-shaped bacillus in the tank and in several other tanks. The outbreak had nothing to do with the tanks, for the families attacked had a separate and pure supply of pure water of their own, and did not use the tank-water. There was, however, one condition common to the three houses attacked—houses occupying each side of a bend in the lane—and it is thus described:—"the only condition common to all these houses is this, that in front of them there is an opening of the sewer passing under the street. Now, this is a very serious statement, and one that ought to be followed up. It raises the whole question of the wisdom of the ventilation plans, and of their effect on the health of the city." This is however nothing new, only Dr. Payne would not believe it, and he is the consulting physician of Mr. Rivers Thompson who rules—the fair province of Bengal.

MOHARANE SURNOMOYE, of Cossimbazar, has done the women of Bengal an invaluable service in setting apart the sum of Rs. 1,50,000 to found a medical institution for native women. Such an institution is urgently needed, and we sincerely hope that her example will be followed by other philanthropic ladies and gentlemen of this country.

IN LECTURING on India at Hall Church Institute, on November 24, Professor Monier Williams called attention to the fact that the recent Calcutta Exhibition had done good service by teaching the native population to appreciate their own arts and manufactures, and by stimulating them to revive old

industries. It has been the beautifully-carved stone gateway at Gwalior, entirely carved by native hands under the direction and superintendence of the late Mr. J. H. St. John. This gateway has been presented to the Kensington Museum. Professor Monier Williams looked forward to the London Exhibition of 1884 as likely to dissipate the apathy which prevails among Englishmen in regard to the development of Indian industries, and as calculated to create a greater interest in India generally. The Government wish to detract from the work of Major Keith, but we cannot do so, as the one-carving of the kind and of the Gwalior gateway is common to the gateway and the balcony of His Highness the Maharaja of Gwalior only a few years ago, are Gwalior specimens.

MR. G. P. Gopal's appeal has been heard and dismissed by the Judge of Purnea and the conviction is upheld under section, 403, for misappropriation. The High Court will be moved against Lalu Ram's acquittal on the receipt of the necessary papers.

THURSDAY, 25TH DECEMBER.

THE NUMBER of deaths registered in the North-West Provinces and Oudh, in the month of October last, was no less than 180,630, as compared with 136,652 in the previous month. The increase was entirely due to fevers, to which cause 150,830 deaths are attributed.

THE LEVER at Government House on Saturday night was the most successful ceremony of the kind that has been held in Calcutta since the Prince of Wales's visit, nearly ten years ago. No fewer than 1,700 gentlemen made their bow to the new Viceroy and the ceremony lasted for nearly three hours.

THE TOTAL receipts of the Indian Railways from the 1st of April to the 22nd of November last, show a net decrease of Rs. 43,62,766. On the majority of the lines there has been an increase, but all these comparatively small sums are swallowed up by the decrease of Rs. 60,02,205 on the East Indian Railway.

By the latest Rurki Resolution the guaranteed appointments, in the Public Works Department have been again thrown open to competition among those who come within statutory definition of "Natives of India," and the available appointments have been increased from six to nine. The justice that had been done to the natives as a compensation for the exclusive reserve of Cooper's Hill College for Europeans has been thereby set aside.

VAGARIES OF PUNCTUATION—The contract made for lighting the town of Liverpool by wick lamps during the year 1819, was rendered void by the misplacing of a comma in the advertisements thus: "The lamps at present are about 4050, and have in general two spouts each, composed of not less than twenty threads of cotton." The contractors would have proceeded to furnish each lamp with the said twenty threads; but this being only half the usual quantity, the Commissioners discovered that the difference arose from the comma following instead of preceding, the word "each." In the following instance it was no doubt a bachelor compositor who, in setting up the toast, "Woman, without her, man would be a savage!" got the comma in the wrong place and made the sentence read, "Woman, without her man, would be a savage!" How do ye our d—ls, make us so frequently and so grotesquely absurd by your vagaries in punctuation and spelling!

THE FOLLOWING changes and appointments in the Political Department have been announced. Mr. J. R. Fitzgerald, Political Agent in the second class, and First Assistant to the Governor General's Agent in Biluchistan, is going on leave for three months in January next, and Captain J. MacIvor, from Central India, will officiate for him. Mr. E. G. Colvin, C. S., is appointed Political Agent of the 1st class, and is posted as an assistant to the Governor General's Agent in Rajputana.

HIS HONOR the Lieutenant-Governor of Bengal, after consulting the Hon'ble Judges Romesh Chunder Mitter and John F. Norris, has been pleased to commute the sentence of death passed on Mr. Eddis's kitmatgar, at Purnia, to one of transportation for life.

THE estimated cost of the Nile Expedition is from ten to twelve millions sterling.

PRINCIPAL Wordsworth has been appointed Vice-Chancellor of the University of Bombay.

M. VAMBERY writes to the *Times* to say that Russia is vigorously at work to bring Khiva into such a state of confusion and anarchy, as to get a plausible excuse for its final annexation.

AN attempt is about to be made by the Bombay Government to revive the fish-salting industry on the Sindh coast, which was formerly one of considerable importance.

SIR GEORGE LAWRENCE, the eldest of the four brothers who served in India, died on Nov. 16, in his eightieth year, leaving only his youngest brother, General Richard Lawrence, still alive.

NOT for twenty years past has such a storm passed over Japan as visited that country in September last. Serious injury was done to mission property in Yokohama, Nagasaki, and Tokio. Walls were blown in, and roofs torn to pieces. The property of the Woman's Foreign Missionary Society also suffered much damage.

THERE is an interesting case in the Police Court, against the Calcutta Corporation for committing a nuisance by filling up a tank, with streets and kitchen sweepings and other refuse, which vitiated the atmosphere of the place. Mr. Henderson, instructed by Mr. Carruthers, appeared on behalf of the prosecution, and Mr. M. P. Gasper, instructed by Messrs. Sanderson & Co., appeared on behalf of the Municipal Corporation and denied the charge. A few preliminary points were gone into, after which the Court said that it would hold a local investigation and adjourned the case till January 5, 1885.

MR. CROFT, Director of Public Instruction in Bengal, we are sorry to hear, has been compelled to proceed to sea, for the recovery of his health, and will probably be absent about three weeks.

COLONEL G. C. DEPREZ, officiating Surveyor General, has written to the Government of India, on the subject of the projected cadastral survey of Calcutta. The Government it is stated sanctioned the survey, which will cost some five lakhs of rupees.

FRIDAY, 26TH, DECEMBER.

THE ENGLISHMAN says:—"A recent case illustrates the abuses into which his Majesty the ex-King of Oudh is likely to be tempted by the special privileges before the law which he enjoys. Having lost some jewels he conceived, on information which appears to have been quite insufficient, that they had been stolen by a lately deceased dependant, and were concealed in his house. His Majesty thereupon induced the Agent to grant a search warrant, which is said to have been executed with unnecessary rudeness by the police. The incriminated family is described as a most respectable one, and naturally feel not a little resentment at the King's proceedings. Were his Majesty amenable to the Courts, they would doubtless seek to bring him to a sense of the levity of his conduct by a suit. From this course they are excluded, unless they obtained the special sanction of the Viceroy. It would not be amiss if his Excellency gave the requisite authority to the aggrieved family."

SIR GEORGE CAMPBELL put a question to the Under-Secretary of State for India, asking "if he would obviate misapprehension by ceasing to class as 'uncovenanted' those officers, who are sent out from England under covenants, contracts or commissions from the Queen, to serve in the Public Works or Education Departments, or as Judges of the High Court; the term uncovenanted being reserved for officers taken into employment by the Government of India in India." Such nibblings are the curse which brings Parliamentary proceedings into disrepute. Sir George surely can find a much more important matter to devote his attention to.

THE ELECTION of Municipal Commissioners for the Suburbs of Calcutta closed on Friday last. Out of a total of 21,491 registered voters no less than 8,974 availed themselves of the privilege of electing Municipal representatives, 1,136 voting personally and 7,838 by proxy. The candidates numbered 38 in all, comprising 33 Hindus, 3 Christians and 2 Muhammadans; but 4 belonging to the first named category were either disqualified or withdrawn before the commencement of the elections. Thus, 34 only competed for the 20 elective vacancies. The following candidates were elected: Ward No. I. Babu Prannath Datta, Babu Gopal Chandra Mukerji, Babu Srinath Mittra. Ward No. II. Dr. Gurudas Banarji, Babu Rakhal Chunder Ghose, Babu Gauri Sankar Ghoshal. Ward No. III. Babu Dwarka Nath Singh, Babu Anundagopal Palit, Babu Amritlal Ghosh. Ward No. IV. Mr. W. Swinhoe, Babu Kanti Chunder Banerji. Ward No. V. Babu Priyanath Malik, Babu Prannath Pundit, Babu Saddanaund Banarji, Grish Chunder Banerji, Ashutosh Biswas. Ward No. VI. Babu Okhil Chunder Mukerji, Babu Ashutosh Mukerji, Babu Jogendra Chunder Ghose, Babu Hem Chandra Banerji.

LORD REAY, the Governor-designate of Bombay, thus expresses his opinion about the abolition of the House of Lords: He remarked that it

would be very great folly if whenever a temporary majority of an institution committed acts which did not coincide with what might be called the public opinion of the day there should immediately arise a cry to abolish such an institution. He firmly believed the House of Lords might be called upon in the future to do not only as much good as in the past, but if reformed, to do even more good and to be a supplement to that vigorous House of Commons which before long they might see. It was quite true that in a democratic condition of affairs a second chamber would become a much more important institution in the Constitution than it had been formerly. And here he was speaking not what might be called Conservative views, but views which were held by those who might be called philosophical politicians. He might appeal to the practice of progressive countries abroad. He might appeal to France, which had kept up the Senate; Italy, which also had a Constitution, which was certainly not an old one, had a Senate; and Germany, not content with two chambers, had recently added a third, a Council of which the Crown Prince was the president. But to come nearephone; let them go to the Colonies, and what did they see there? Australia had in its original Constitution made a Senate and given to its Senators, not as in America a tenure of nine years, but a tenure for life, whereas in another colony, with more Democratic control, they created a Senate and gave the Senators only a tenure of nine years. Now these were facts, and not the theories of deluded political philosophers. He would only subscribe the words pronounced twenty years ago by a politician whose loss they were all to-day personally deploring more than he could say—"The House of Lords will always be respected as long as it fulfils its exalted duties in a temperate and a judicial capacity."

SAYS the *Spectator*: There has been a marked tendency "during the last thirty years, in men of a certain nervous restlessness of intellect, to a process for which we can find no appropriate name, unless it be right to call it spiritual denudation,—we mean a sort of delight in stripping off beliefs in which they have been brought up almost for the sake of stripping them off, not chiefly because they have found evidence which, in their opinion, compels them to believe something different but also, and apparently even more, because they have begun to feel a sense of oppression and cramp in the mere attitude of belief itself, so that it is with a sense of luxury that they throw off any belief, quite apart from the particular nature of the belief thrown off." These remarks apply not only to spiritual but also to political beliefs.

IT is stated that Mr. Bradford Leslie, the Agent of the East Indian Railway Company, has been summoned "Home" to confer with the Home Board. Mr. D. W. Campbell, the Locomotive Superintendent returns from furlough next week and it is probable that he may officiate as Agent during Mr. Leslie's absence.

SATURDAY, 27TH DECEMBER.

"THE VICEROY of India," says a contemporary, "now occupies one of the most splendid positions in the world, and he is very differently situated from the representative of British power in the old days, who was the President of Madras, and whose salary was £200 a year with a gratuity of £100. He had six members of Council, whose salaries varied from £100 to £110 per annum according to rank; then came six senior merchants on £40, and two junior merchants on £30 per annum. The tail of the Civil Service establishment consisted of five factors at £10, and two writers £5 per annum, married men being allowed diet money at the rate of from five to ten pagodas a month. When the Governor went abroad, he was escorted by peons, besides his English guards, and had two Union Jack flags carried before him, and according to the account given by Mr. Locker, in his travels published in 1711, "country music enough to frighten a stranger into the belief that they were mad." This appears to have been the origin of the Governor's Band, which now beguiles their Excellencies from the cares of office, and soothes them in their intervals of writing Government Resolutions, with its dulcet strains."

THE MADRAS STANDARD remarks: "The Prince of Wales proposes that his eldest son should in one respect follow in his father's footsteps. The German theory that every royal personage should be taught some kind of trade—German royalty showing a quite intelligible preference for carpentering—does not obtain in England. If our princes take up professions, that is judged enough—or more than enough; and hitherto the choice was limited to the army or the navy. The present heir to the Crown is a bencher of the Middle Temple. Prince Albert Victor, on obtaining his majority, will be entered as a student of the same Inn, with the necessity of passing the slight preliminary exami-

nation which the honourable society requires of all its members. Of all the professions which a probable future king of England might select, none should be so useful as the one which is supposed to need for its members a knowledge of the laws of their country.

ADDRESSES of welcome have been presented to the new Viceroy by the British Indian Association, the Trades' Association, and the Indian Association. The following are the address of the British Indian Association and the reply thereto :

May it please Your Excellency,—We, the undersigned President, Vice-Presidents, and members of the British Indian Association, desire to offer to your Excellency our respectful welcome on your assumption of the exalted office of Viceroy and Governor-General of India. Your Lordship's brilliant career in the Diplomatic Service of Her Majesty and the marked success of your administration of the important dominion of Canada, have filled the people of this country with the brightest anticipations for the future, and we earnestly cherish the hope that those anticipations will be fully realized. As humble representatives of the people whose welfare and very existence are inseparably bound up with the maintenance of British rule in this country, we hail with delight the advent of a ruler whose mature statesmanship and ripe experience are sure guarantees of success, not only in the management of our external relations, but in the conversation and amelioration of the internal affairs of the country. We firmly believe that your Excellency will be pleased, by allowing unfettered growth to social structures, to help most effectually and beneficially the cause of true progress, and to avoid all disturbance and friction by frequent legislative interference. Amongst the manifold blessings which have been conferred upon the people of this country by the British Government, we especially prize and cherish as an inestimable boon the policy of religious neutrality, which has been hitherto so firmly maintained. The freedom of action so graciously accorded to us in regard to our faith and worship has been one of the many links which bind us in grateful and unswerving loyalty to the British Throne, and we sincerely trust that this golden rule will guide and govern the measures of your Lordship's administration. It would be improper for us on an occasion like this to dwell at length on the various measures of Government for the advancement of the people which will engage your Excellency's attention. But it will be wrong in us to conceal from your Lordship the deep consternation and the grave anxiety which widely prevail amongst those classes whose interests are conducted with land, by reason of the introduction into the Indian Legislature of a Land Bill which threatens to revolutionize the relations that subsist between them and their tenantry. It has been our duty to represent to your Lordship's illustrious predecessor the grievances the people sorely feel on this subject, and we rest satisfied that the matter will receive your Lordship's fullest consideration. My Lord, the enlightened policy of England has given wide scope to the principle of Government according to which the wishes and sentiments of the subject race are consulted in the elaboration of important measures. It is our firm conviction that under your Excellency's wise and liberal administration the just and legitimate aspirations of the people as the subjects of Her Majesty the Queen-Empress will always meet with your most generous consideration. We have the honor to be my Lord, your Excellency's most obedient servants.

His Excellency the Viceroy in reply said :—President and Gentlemen,—I need not assure you that this is one of the most interesting occasions which has ever occurred to me. I find myself to-day for the first time brought into close and intimate contact with an association represented by some of the most influential, honorable and worthy of Her Majesty's Indian subjects. I cannot attempt to convey to you in words the very extreme pleasure which this circumstance gives me. I am delighted to see you around me, and I hope that, ere long, opportunities will be given to me of coming into close and intimate and familiar relations with each of you individually. In reply to your address I have to say that I am much obliged to you for the friendly words of welcome, as well as for the readiness with which you are disposed to extend to me your confidence and regard. As I have already had an opportunity of publicly stating the feelings by which I am animated in assuming the Government of this great dependency, it is unnecessary that I should repeat them. Nor would it be prudent for me to reply otherwise than in very general terms to the addresses with which the loyal and kindly hearted people in the country are in the habit of welcoming the advent of successive Viceroys. For a long time my only claim to your respect and attachment must be found in the fact that England has never yet sent forth a public servant to represent Her Majesty in this country who has not been actuated by a strong sense of duty and by a firm determination to devote his best energies to promote the welfare and happiness of the vast population entrusted to his charge. In the course of time I hope to convince you and those amongst whom I shall have the happiness to labor, that I have on no occasion broken with the traditions established by my illustrious predecessors in this respect. With reference to the points you have touched I am disposed to agree with you that, so far I am able to judge of the situation, it will be well for the Government to give free and fair scope to the unfettered development of such social and political advances as the progress of the age may desire in the way of education, and which the natural instincts of the people may develop. I shall certainly be indisposed to give rise to friction and disturbance between the various parts of the body politic by unnecessary or uncalled-for legislation. You may also rest assured that I shall be prepared to maintain that policy of absolute neutral impartiality between the various classes of Her Majesty's subjects professing different religions, and to which you have justly attached so much importance. Into the subject of land legislation to which you have also made reference, I do not think it will be convenient for me to take this opportunity of entering. All I can say at present is that I am well aware that for many years past the necessity for some such legislation has been recognised by persons of the highest authority, and it has been acknowledged by the Imperial Government. A Bill in that direction is in the course of elaboration, the provisions of which it will be my duty to study. In doing so, I shall not fail to pay the most conscientious attention to all that has

been said by the various classes who are likely to be affected by the measure. In conclusion, allow me to assure you that I shall always give due weight to any representations which may be addressed to me by an association such as yours, and, as you very justly remark, these expressions of opinion, will very effectually weigh in the settlement of such information as the Government of India may possess in regard to the wishes, wants, and aspirations of Her Majesty's subjects, and cannot fail to prove of value to those whose duty it is to provide for the welfare.

WE HAVE to acknowledge with thanks the receipt of the under-mentioned periodicals and publications :—1. An annexure to the Bill to provide for the Registration of Permanent Tenures. 2. Report on the Jails of the Punjab for 1883. 3. Report on Public Instruction in the N. W. P. and Oudh, for 1884. 4. Report on the Administration of the Central Provinces, 1883-84. 5. Progress Report of the Forest Administration in Ajmere-Merwara for 1883-84. 6. Tarun—Tapasi a Bengali novel by Brojonath Bhattacharji. 7. Pakshik Samalochak Part I. for Kartik 1291 B.E.

WE TAKE from the morning papers the following telegrams of the week :

London December. 20.—Sir Horace Rumbold, British Minister at Stockholm, has been appointed Minister at Athens.

22.—A fire took place yesterday at the Parcels Office at Windsor. Amongst the burned debris an infernal machine was found. The fuse attached, instead of exploding the machine, had set fire to the box in which it was contained, and thus caused the surrounding to take fire. News from the Cape states that armed Boers in the transvaal are starting for the border, President Kruger being powerless to prevent them.

25.—News from the west coast of Africa states that the Spanish African Society have acquired a territory of fifteen thousand square miles, inland on the Gulf of Guinea, opposite Corsica Bay.

Cairo, December. 24.—Three sections of the light Camel Corps and sixty-four "whalers" have arrived at Korti. The Mudir of Dongola telegraphs that a Bedouin has arrived at Dongola, who left Omdeman on the 12th instant, and who reports that the Mahdi has sent seven corps to reinforce the Ameer of Berber, and to oppose the British advance. It is understood that the powers have shelved the question of the British proposals in Egypt.

The Hindoo Patriot.

MONDAY, DECEMBER 29, 1884.

LORD DUFFERIN AND THE RENT BILL.

THE *Pioneer*, speaking of the great meeting on the Tenancy Bill on the 19th instant, says :—"The Government have on their hands a piece of legislation of unexampled difficulty and importance. The merits of that controversy have been discussed with a patience, research, and ability well worthy of the occasion, and of the reputation of the Government for a sincere desire to deal evenhanded justice to every class of their subjects. If further investigation can be shown to be expedient, assuredly it will be granted. If a still further consideration of the many delicate questions involved be found necessary, assuredly it will be given. But it is quite certain that the results of years of inquiry and deliberation, and of careful consultation between the Government of Bengal, the Government of India, and the Secretary of State and his colleagues at the India Office, will not be abandoned; and the best way in which the landowners can serve their cause is by joining in the discussion in a frank and reasonable manner, urging their views with good-sense and moderation, and admitting the obvious necessities of the case." The zemindars want "even-handed justice," and nothing more. Radical visionaries have been attempting to deprive the landowners of the province of their cherished rights, guaranteed to them by the British Government, and it is against this spoliatory policy, that the agricultural community has been making a strong protest. By all means give to the agricultural classes, what is historically just and politically right and expedient, but in doing so the Government should remember that the British prestige in India is built upon 'British faith,' consecrated by five generations by British statesmen. If the political wisacres of the present day do by their inconsiderate acts shake the great trust which our countrymen have on British integrity, they make a mistake, the disastrous consequences of which it is not difficult to foresee. The landholders bitterly complain that the present land-policy of the Government is not based upon a careful 'investigation,' and a sifting inquiry made into the existing relations between landlords and

tenants; and so long as the rights and privileges of the land-owning classes are not exactly determined, and the economical advantages of a new rent law carefully ascertained, the burning question of the day cannot be properly grasped, and it will be utterly impossible to solve the agricultural problem to the satisfaction of both zemindars, tenure-holders and ryots. Once the historical position of the landowning classes is correctly determined, and the real agricultural economy of the province is clearly brought to view, apply by all means the test of political right and political expediency, and any well-considered measure which the Government may introduce to ameliorate the condition of the people will be sincerely welcomed by the very men who now denounce the present policy of the Government in the strongest language. The zemindars are well aware that "rhapsodies and invectives" are out of place in a controversy affecting the well-being, the life and death of millions of men, but when they see that arguments and entreaties are of no avail, that the Government is bent upon confiscating their property and reducing them to perennial misery; all that is left to them is to make a respectful protest against the unjust proceedings of the ruling power. Surely no sober-minded person, who is not a radical visionary himself, will blame the zemindars for not being able to kiss the rod that is about to strike them. We heard a large landed proprietor,—whose political sagacity is universally acknowledged, and who is sincerely desirous to see the Government extricated out of the difficulty in which it has been placed by ill-advised counsellors—say that Government should not only give the three F's to the ryots, but should also give the three F's—fair rent, freedom of contract, and facility of recovering rent—to the zemindars. This is putting the question in the clearest possible light, and all discussions now should be grouped round those points. It is now in Lord Dufferin's power to put an end to the bitter controversy which is doing incalculable injury already to the agricultural population of the province. Let him arbitrate between the Bengal Government and the landholders of the province; let the zemindars forsake some of their radical objections to the Bill, and the Bengal Government give up their untenable position; and a satisfactory solution of the difficulty will soon be arrived at. We have reason to believe that Lord Dufferin is anxious to see that the rights of all classes be preserved, and the prosperity of the country be assured by a measure which would meet the real wants and wishes and requirements of the people; and we would request His Lordship to arbitrate between the landholders and the framers of the Tenancy Bill, and, after taking into consideration the claims of both parties, pass a law that will give peace, prosperity and safety to all classes of the community.

THE MAHOMEDAN QUESTION IN INDIA.

MR. WILERID BLUNT has for years made the Mahomedan question his special study. He has from time to time, visited the principal Mahomedan countries of the world; and it is understood that the chief object he had in view in coming out to India last winter was to make himself acquainted with the condition of Mahomedans in this country. The British Crown has a larger number of Mussulman subjects than even the Sultan of Turkey, who is generally regarded as the successor of the Caliphs. That Mr. Blunt should during his stay in this country have studied the Mahomedan question was only to be expected. But it is a great pity that he could not approach this subject without bias. His antecedents, perhaps, disqualified him for dealing with the question in a judicial spirit. If so, the result is all the more regrettable. A philanthropist should, above all things, be fair, just, and impartial; otherwise he is sure to be ridiculed as a crotcheteer and a fanatic.

In the third instalment of his "Ideas about India," Mr. Blunt deals with the Mahomedan question. He reserves Hyderabad for separate treatment on a separate occasion. His paper under notice is chiefly concerned with the Mahomedans of the Upper Provinces, the stronghold of Islamism in India. Mr. Blunt writes :—"In

tellectually the equals, and morally the superiors of their Hindu neighbours, the Mahomedans of the Upper Ganges Valley have not forgotten that till very lately the Administration of India was almost entirely in their hands, and they look upon their declining fortunes as neither deserved nor irremediable. * * * Their race, indeed, is nowhere pure, except in the case of a few princely and noble families, but the tradition of their origin remains in tact, and is at the same time their weakness and their strength—their strength, inasmuch as it supplies them with a certain standard of honor, beneficial to all societies; their weakness, inasmuch as it has given them prejudices against the ordinary means of living open to all the world. The pride of conquest is the bane of all Mahomedan societies sprung from Northern Asia, and the Mahomedans of India form no exception. The Moguls never condescended to trade, but either settled on the land or took service, civil or military, under Government, and their descendants are still swayed by the same proud instincts. We would challenge Mr. Blunt to prove that the Mahomedans of India are morally the superiors of, say the Rajputs. Are the former more courageous, brave, noble, generous, honorable and chivalrous than the latter? Mr. Blunt and those who think with him should answer this question. The name of many a Rajput hero and heroine of the olden times still excites profound feelings of love and sympathy throughout the whole civilized world. There is nothing in the history of Greece or Rome which exceeds the gallantry and devotion shown by the Rajputs in the defence of their country against the invasions of the Mussulmans, which lasted for more than two centuries. But let that pass. Mr. Blunt, speaks nothing but the truth when he says that the pride of conquest is the bane of the Mahomedans of India. We have heard from a reliable source that the Newab Nazims of Moorshedabad, until lately, maintained a pretty large establishment for keeping an account of the entire income and expenditure of the Soobahs of Bengal, Behar and Orissa. These men cooked their figures on both the receipt and disbursement sides in such a way that the surplus left exactly represented the allowance which the Newab Nazim received from the British Government. A fallen man, if he has any sense in him, must adapt himself to his altered circumstances; otherwise he is sure to be ruined. The Mahomedans of India were once the rulers of the country, and when its Government passed away from their hands they failed to realize that their position had been materially changed by the transfer of sovereignty.

In describing the alleged grievances of the Mahomedans of India, Mr. Blunt says nothing that was not far more ably urged by Mr. Syed Amir Ali in his paper which appeared in the *Nineteenth Century*, a little more than a couple of years ago. Mr. Blunt asserts that under English rule the Mahomedan landowners were the first to suffer. He writes:—"By a certain fiscal measure known as the 'resumptions,' requiring all holders of lands to show their title-deeds, the Mahomedans who often held by prescription rather than by written grant, lost largely of the estates, and so were reduced to poverty." So far Mr. Blunt is quite correct. But he is greatly mistaken if he thinks that the Hindus did not suffer from the blighting influence of the Resumption Laws. Both Hindus and Mahomedans were equally affected by the resumption proceedings. The former, if any thing, were in a worse position in this respect than the latter, inasmuch as the revenue-free grants which the Hindu enjoyed generally dated from old Hindu times. In connection with this subject, it may be observed that if the operation of the Resumption Laws was suspended or stopped, that result was entirely due to the exertions of the Hindus. The Hindus worked hard for obtaining this relief, and their Mahomedan fellow-subjects shared its benefit without making any efforts on their part. Mr. Blunt proceeds:—"Next, the military services were in a great degree cut off from them [Mahomedans] by the extinction of the native armies. And lastly, the Act changing the official language from Persian and Hindustani to English took from them their still leading position in the

civil employment. The Mahomedans had up to this more than held their own with the Hindus as Hindustani was their vernacular, and Persian the language of their classics, but in English they were at a distinct disadvantage, for that was already the language of commerce, and so of the educated Hindus. Nor could English be learned except at the secular schools to which Mahomedans were averse to sending their sons, as tending to irreligion. The sources, therefore, of their employment were on every side curtailed, and a growing poverty has been ever since the natural result." Now, the Hindus too, have suffered from the curtailment of the field of military service caused by the extinction of the Native armies. Under English rule both Hindus and Mussulmans must be content with an inferior position in the army. As regards the abolition of Persian as the language of the courts which Mr. Blunt puts forward as one of the grievances of the Mahomedans of India, the subject has been discussed threadbare, and we will not repeat the old arguments. Surely, a sensible man like Mr. Blunt will not deny that the people of every country have a right to seek justice in the courts in their own mother tongue. In this matter the Mahomedans of Northern India have still a great advantage over Hindus. In the Upper Provinces Urdu still continues to be the language of the courts, though it is not the true vernacular of the rural population, Hindu or Mahomedan. In consequence of Urdu being the official language in Upper India, the Mahomedans naturally hold a disproportionate share of the appointments in the public service in that part of the country. The early English rulers of India naturally enough maintained Mahomedan influence in working out the consolidation of their own power and authority. But it was not to be expected that this state of things should last for ever. The Hindus adapted themselves to the new order of affairs by learning the language of their rulers. We do not understand what Mr. Blunt means when he says that "in English the Mahomedans were at a distinct disadvantage, for that was already the language of commerce and so of the educated Hindus." English is certainly not the mother-tongue of the Hindus. It is quite as much a foreign language to them as it is to their Mahomedan fellow-subjects. It is true that religious prejudices deterred the Mahomedans from sending their sons to Government Schools or Colleges; but for this they have only themselves to thank. There can be no manner of doubt that situated as the British Government is in India, a policy of strict neutrality in religious matters is the wisest course it can follow. The Government cannot undertake to provide religious instruction for any class of its subjects. Mr. Blunt is of opinion that greater liberality in the administration of religious trusts, privileges to pilgrims and assistance to non-secular education are the chief wants of the Mahomedan community. The Government of India has recently declared that in the matter of education the Mahomedans are entitled to *exceptional assistance* from the State. In this respect they already enjoy an advantage over their Hindu neighbours. The Mahomedan College at Aligarh receives a much larger grant-in-aid from the Provincial revenues than the Agra College does. How can fairly Government show greater liberality in the administration of religious trusts or grant special privileges to Mahomedan pilgrims, we are at a loss to understand. Mr. Blunt states that there is a very wide and deep feeling of discontent and unrest existing at the present time among the Indian Mahomedans, and that this feeling will, at some time not far distant, develop into an active feeling of disaffection. Mr. Blunt has done good service by bringing the state of Mahomedan feeling to the notice of Government.

THE PROPOSED DOMESDAY BOOK.

In civilised Legislatures the usual practice is to submit well-considered and carefully-drawn-out Bills for consideration. In countries where Government is controlled by "ins and outs," the necessity of maturing Bills very carefully before submitting them to discussion is paramount. It is on the merits of the Bills submitted that the dis-

cussion proceeds, and the rejection of a Bill but too often leads to the resignation of a ministry. Though Indian Legislatures are not governed by party politics, still the standing orders, rules, regulations, bye-laws, and procedure are all framed on the model of Parliamentary proceedings, and for satisfactory wholesome legislation, they are the soundest. The Bengal Government, however, has lately improvised a more summary course. Instead of getting up well-matured schemes of law, it has taken to putting a lump of clay on the Legislative wheel, in the hope that its revolutions would somehow mould the crude earth into something like a decent law. It is expected that the labours of the legislators in Committee will effectuate what bears are said to accomplish by licking their new-born cubs. This is notably apparent in the case of the Bill "to provide for the Registration of Permanent Tenures," which has just been brought forth. What it is finally to be even its framer does not know. The theory is that it is to garry out a certain as-yet-unsettled scheme of registration which the Bengal Tenancy Bill is to decide upon. That Bill has not yet been definitely adopted, and no one can say what its requirements will be. The mover of the Registration Bill himself admitted that the Bill cannot be passed until after the passing of the Tenancy Bill, and His Honor the Lieutenant-Governor is said to have informed his Council that the Bill cannot be taken into consideration until the Legislative Council of India has decided upon what it requires. Under the circumstances ordinary people would naturally suppose that the time for the Registration Bill has not yet come, and the bringing of it forward in a crude amorphous form was inexpedient. But the Government is wiser, and knows well enough what it is about. The Municipal law required that in filling up tanks every tank should be separately examined and reported upon, and a month's notice given for its improvement before the Municipality can take it in hand. Dr. Payue found these precautionary provisions of the law to be clogs on the freedom of his action; and so he stole a march over the law, and issued a notification ordaining that all the filthy tanks in Calcutta should be filled up within a month from the date of notice, not that this should be actually done, but that under cover of this notice he could pounce upon any tank whenever he liked. The Government of Bengal has taken a leaf out of Dr. Payne's book in this respect. It does not know what law it will ultimately require, but it goes through the form of notice of motion, first reading, and Select Committee, in order that the time necessary for these processes might not hereafter hamper its action, and delay its at once passing the Bill, when the time for going to Darjeeling will be at hand. In other words, astivation on the hills has to be given precedence to loyal faithful adherence to the spirit and letter of the standing orders. Inasmuch, however, as health is of greater importance than law-making under difficulties, the course may not be without its advantage. There is another advantage in this course. Under the standing orders, the leading principles of a Bill can be discussed and settled only at the first reading, before going to a Select Committee. But as in the case of immature bills those leading principles are not yet formed, no discussion can take place on them, and as the first reading, which is equivalent to the second reading in the House of Commons, when once gone through, makes the Bill perfectly safe, and no recusant member of the Council can afterwards bring on a discussion for the rejection of the Bill, it is a decided gain. It may be that in vulgar language it is taking in the recusant by a 'fluke,' and it may not be very dignified for the Bengal Legislature, but when the Government has made up its mind to do a thing and is not open to further argument, it is well to put down all vain discussion. We hear that the native members held a consultation as to what course they should follow, and one of them, who professed to be in the counsels of the Government advised that the Bill should not be opposed, as it was not certain what shape it would ultimately take. This advice was accepted, and the native members have now lost all opportunity of discussing in Council the leading principles of the Bill. Of course the native members could do nothing

by opposing the principles, as they composed but a small fraction of the Council; but they could have informed the Government and the public as to what their opinion is in regard to the measure. In admitting native and non-official members, the theory is that the Government should be fully advised as to what outside opinion is with regard to its legislative projects. But this is only a theory. It is idle to think that a Government like that of Mr. Rivers Thompson can have any patience with such opinions. The standing orders provide certain checks, and the more summary the method by which they can be got over the better. That hunter is the best which can clear the greatest number of barriers at once and it is equally true in the case of law-making.

And if we are not satisfied with the manner in which the Bill has been brought forward, we are no less dissatisfied with the Bill as it stands. It is, as we have already said, very crude in its present form, and not amenable to detailed criticism. But such as it is, it is as obnoxious to the landowning community, both landholders and ryots, as it can possibly be. The theory of a Domesday Book is no doubt grand. It is associated with the English idea of landed property for over 800 years. The few who still own lands since the time of the Domesday Book, take great pride in England upon their nobility and antiquity. Such a thing in Bengal, 800 years hence, will, no doubt, be looked upon with great veneration. If Mr. Hunter claims to be a second Faizi, why should not Mr. Rivers Thompson be William the Conqueror of Bengal? It is scarce three hundred years ago that Todur Mull secured undying glory by his revenue settlement of the Empire of Akbar, and we may have a second edition of it under our present regime. We are free to admit also that, when completed, it will have more than sentimental value. Government will have firmer hold on property, and collection of rent in regard to permanent tenures will doubtless be greatly facilitated. In the language of the *Objects and Reasons*, "it will set at rest the disputes concerning the character of tenures, the conditions under which they are held, and the rents payable on account of them." The Hon'ble Member in charge also holds out a bait by saying that "the Government may extend to the superior owners the summary sale procedure of Regulation VIII. of 1819 to all tenures registered under the proposed law." All this may be perfectly true. But it seems to us to be very like Elysium on the other side of an impassable river. We would fain go to the other side, but we have the boiling torrent before us to cross. The Famine Commission estimated the total of ryots at 11 millions, and the belief is that some 80 per cent. of our ryots have got permanent occupancy rights in their holdings. The actual number of recorded permanent tenures is, as given in the Cess Report of the Board of Revenue, 11,35,222, but it does not include the creations of Act X of 1859. Let us suppose the actual number to be half of that of the ryots, or 40 per cent., and we will find that the project contemplates the registration of forty-four lacs of holdings. If we could conceive there would be no contested registry, that neither zemindar nor ryot will make a false claim, and that the cost of each registry would be Rs. 10, the money cost of the project would be four crores and forty lacs. But to suppose that there will be no contest would be to suppose that the millennium has already arrived. But it has not. We may wish for the millennium of Mr. Rivers Thompson, or even for the kingdom of Heaven on earth, but we have to deal with sinful mortals, and the man will be bold indeed who will assert that 95 cases out of every 100 will be other than contested. Almost every ryot will go up to have his holding registered, whether it be permanent tenure or not, just to try his chance, and every zemindar who will have the means to defray the cost will do his utmost to oppose registry. Even if only three-fourths of the cases be contested, there will be a total of thirty three lacs of cases to be decided, before the country will know any peace. Between the plaintiff and the defendant and the appeals, it would be a low estimate to assess the costs, including

stamps, muktear's fees, pleader's fees, and a hundred and one legitimate and illegitimate charges, at Rs. 200 per case. Let us say it will be 100, and the total will be 33 crores of Rupees. In brief, therefore, the project means the inundation of the country with 3½ millions of law-suits, and a wastage of 33 millions of Rupees in costs. Elysium may be situated on the other side of it, but the man is no friend of the people, who would drag the whole race of ryots and zemindars through this vast sea of litigation and expense. At the lowest computation, even of Government, the time necessary for the completion of this project is about 25 years, and so an entire generation must undergo untold trouble in order that its descendants may hereafter arrive at Elysium. Of course we know many men mortify the flesh and undergo endless penance in order to enjoy Heaven hereafter. But the heaven held out by Mr. Rivers Thompson is not for us, but our children's children, even if it comes to that and they are not sold out of their home and hearth in the meantime. As to the demoralization which such a mass of litigation is sure to bring on a Christian administrator like Mr. Thompson need not take any notice; but we cannot contemplate it without horror.

We have said that the details of the Bill are not such as to admit of criticism. But we cannot close this article without noting that the safeguards provided against injustice are of the slightest. As regards lands paying rent under Rs. 100 a year, the decision of the Sub-Judge is to be final, but an appeal to the district Judge will be permitted in cases above that value. The procedure suggested is summary, and a mistake once made is to seal the doom of the party cast for ever. In cases of disputed possession of land worth ten rupees or even less, the legislature provides a general and a special appeal, but in the case of a tenure worth Rs. 1000, the summary decision of a Sub-Judge under the proposed law is to be final. This shows that either Mr. Rivers Thompson is not disposed to permit the full measure of justice to be meted out in the case of the proposed registration, or the civil law as it now stands is extravagantly wasteful in its provisions in regard to appeals. We do not care to point out which branch of the alternative is the correct one.

MR. HARRISON ON MESSRS. PAYNE AND CUNNINGHAM.

SINCE we last had occasion to notice Dr. Payne's deposition before the Sanitary Commission, two papers bearing on the subject have been published—one a Memorandum by Mr. Cunningham, and the other a minute on the same by Mr. Harrison, together with some subsidiary correspondence. We had hoped that Mr. Cunningham would appear as a witness before the Commission. He, however, knows too thoroughly what it is to subject one-self to the fire of a cross-examination, and, looking to the sorry plight to which Dr. Payne had been reduced in his attempt to make the worse appear the better half before the Sanitary Commission, has contented himself by writing an elaborate letter extending over several columns of the *Englishman* to uphold the cause of his two memorials. He felt sure that no one would challenge the accuracy of his statements, and his position as a Judge of the High Court would invest whatever he said with a halo of authority. But he was mistaken, even as was Dr. Payne, when he gave a too free rein to his fancy in the presence of the Commission. Too many interests are concerned in the issue to admit of broad misstatements passing unchallenged, and Mr. Harrison is so intimately involved in the case that he has found it necessary to fight against both his antagonists. He took the field by addressing a letter to Dr. Payne, calling attention to certain misstatements, and the reply he got was so curt and summary that he felt it necessary to lay the whole case before the Municipal Corporation. Dr. Payne, in his reply to a letter of Mr. Harrison, which was read out by Mr. Cotton at a meeting of the Commission, had stated that the facts and opinions con-

tained in the correspondence which passed between Mr. Cunningham and himself and on which the memorial of 1883 was based, were in fact a reflex of Mr. Harrison's own views, and the memorials were designed to help Mr. Harrison in a somewhat round-about manner. Mr. Harrison, in his letter to Dr. Payne, denied it most emphatically. This was a poser, and Dr. Payne, instead of meeting it fairly, evades it by saying that Mr. Harrison would "hear more fully on the subject from another source." This evasion is thoroughly characteristic of Dr. Payne. It has been ever so since the long period of his connection with the Calcutta Corporation. That it should fail to satisfy Mr. Harrison is but natural, and he has recorded a minute on it which traverses the whole question. He is a perfect master of his subject, and as a polemical writer is greatly the superior of both Dr. Payne and Mr. Cunningham; and his minute, therefore, affords much more interesting reading than what one would expect in a dispute about insanitary drains and untidy bustees. We have no space to spare for the *pros* and *cons* of the dispute itself, but some of the issues raised are worthy of note. The gist of the dispute lies in a nutshell. Messrs. Cunningham and Payne have laboured hard to show that their two memorials had been shown to Mr. Harrison before presentation, and had met with his approval, and Mr. Harrison repudiates both these statements. Adverting to the second memorial he says: "A perusal of this passage will clearly explain the stand-point from which I have throughout viewed the second memorial, and the reason why I from the outset considered it unjust. It proceeded from the same quarter as the first memorial, and was promoted by the same two gentlemen, and yet it virtually repudiated the equitable decision of Government, while endeavouring to conceal the fact that it was doing so. Its only legitimate justification would have been a recitation of the sanitary measures that the Commissioners had abandoned, since the date of the Government reply. It did nothing of the kind. It set forth the opinion of Dr. Payne, who prefaced his remarks by saying, 'we do not yet know what has been done in consequence of the first memorial in the way of practical work,' and then went on to condemn the proceedings of the Corporation on abstract grounds, every one of which was just as valid six months earlier when the Government order was written. Indeed, from Dr. Payne's evidence before the Commission, it is evident that he never for a moment regarded the decision of the Government in December last as satisfactory. Such a memorial was a moral breach of faith, unless it openly challenged the justice of the Government decision and asked for its reconsideration." Commenting further, Mr. Harrison goes on: "I hope I have made it clear that I might well adopt an attitude of neutrality towards the first memorial, and yet feel it my duty to protest emphatically against the second which repudiated the results attained by the earlier one; yet with this exception, what reason has Dr. Payne alleged for his extraordinary supposition that I should be assisted by it? And what steps did he take to satisfy himself that he was acting in accordance with my views? Did he ever ask for an interview on the subject? Did he tell me he was in correspondence with Mr. Cunningham? Did he send me a copy of his letter? Did he ever tell me of the memorial? Honorable controversy is not devoid of equitable rules, and it is not honorable controversy to hold your opponent responsible for such opinions as you may be pleased to attribute to him, without giving him any opportunity of correcting the error." The tone of this is certainly sharp and incisive, but not more so than what the circumstances of the case demanded. Our readers will no doubt enjoy the remarks about "the honorable controversy" as referring to the Honorable Justice Cunningham. Turning next to Mr. Cunningham, Mr. Harrison says: "It will be seen, Mr. Cunningham alleges two immediate causes of the second memorial—(1) a letter from an ex-Commissioner stating his suspicion that the bustee grant of 1883-84 had not been spent; (2) a statement made to him and several other gentlemen by me. Now, it surely shows in a remarkable manner how Mr. Cunningham

manages to use language to conceal his thoughts. (What an honorable Justice of the High Court to "conceal his thoughts!") Of these two causes, the first is only most casually alluded to in his letter to Dr Payne, and that not as being "a suspicion of an *ex-Commissioner* which needed, *enquiry*," but as a *statement of an undoubted fact by myself*; while the second of the two causes is not alluded to anywhere in the papers! So that Mr. Cunningham being actuated by two immediate causes to launch a second memorial, straightway proceeds to draw up one based on everything except the two motive causes of his action. I do not wonder, however, that he should have omitted all reference to the second cause, for if it had anything to do with the second memorial, the connection is illogical grotesquely. As now stated it reads like a mere artifice to embarrass me with Babu Jodulall Mullick, the gentleman referred to, who naturally enough has called upon me to state the real facts of his case as they are now more fully known to me. Artifice or not, a plain statement of facts is the best way of meeting it. "Artifice or not" the injustice which a gentleman in the position of Mr. Cunningham, a Judge of the High Court, has done to Babu Jodulall Mullick, is grave indeed. The Babu is not a Commissioner now, and cannot, therefore, get the Corporation to defend him. He is a native, and cannot get the leading Anglo-Indian press to put in a word for him. The trail of the Ilbert Bill is still so marked that Europeans cannot sympathise with him. And the charge, grossly libellous as it is, has been so ingeniously worded by an astute lawyer that it cannot be brought within the purview of the law of libel. All honor, therefore, is due to Mr. Harrison for the noble spirit in which he has come forward in defence of the Babu, the more so as he himself has been the unwitting cause of the mischief in the first instance. We make no hesitation, therefore, in quoting here the following from Mr. Harrison's minute:

"We were acquiring a plot of land in Jorabagan and the Land Acquisition Deputy Collector informed me one day at the beginning of the current year, that we should have to pay much more for this plot than the fair value, because a Commissioner who was one of the Committee that had decided on the acquisition, had, after that decision was arrived at, purchased a half share in the land at a sum above the market value, and, this purchase was now used to raise the price. Thus stated the transaction had a very disagreeable looking aspect; and as the case was not ready for the Court, I knew nothing more than this when I narrated the story in the course of conversation at Mr. Cunningham's dinner table to himself and four other friends; as private a gathering as could well be conceived.

"Soon afterwards Mr. Cunningham asked me whether he might make use of this incident which he regarded as scandalous. I begged him not to do so till I had verified the facts for myself, but I said that, if true, he certainly might make use of it, as the whole case would come in Court.

"When the case was coming on I took the greatest pains to get at the bottom of the facts. I procured from the Registration Office a copy of the deed of purchase, and I again examined the records of the Committee. It then became evident that, while the story, as told me by the Deputy Collector, was correct, it was not the whole truth. Baboo Jodoo Lall Mullick had purchased the land after the decision of the Committee in which he sat, but it was one of several parcels of land bought at the same time, and there was internal evidence that the conveyance must have been for a long time under treaty; so that the land was not purchased *because of the intended acquisition*. Moreover, the Committee's Proceedings shewed that Baboo Jodoo Lall Mullick, far from wishing to resell the land at a higher price, endeavoured to negotiate with the Commissioners so as to obviate the acquisition, but the rest of the Committee after full consideration decided not to accept his offer. (The negotiation here means that the Babu offered to give half the land required free of cost.)

"After this I took the advice of our Solicitors and of every high authority regarding the transaction, and found that they agreed with me in the conclusion that as now explained the aspect of the case was entirely changed, and I thought it my duty to inform Mr. Cunningham to this effect. The case came on in due course; the Court, so far as I can learn, saw nothing to censure in the Commissioners' action, and the price awarded vindicated the *bona fides* of the purchase."

We must make room for yet another extract. Mr. Cunningham, in his letter to the Sanitary Commission, makes strong protestations about his sympathy for local self-Government, even as does Mr. Rivers Thompson, and will not permit the barest suspicion being entertained against the validity of his professions. This is how Mr. Harrison explains the intrinsic value of those professions of good-will: "Could Mr. Cunningham's bitterest opponent have satirised his attitude towards local self-government in more significant language than he here spontaneously adopts! If the majority of the Commissioners take a different estimate of the importance of a measure from Mr. Cunningham, his only remedy is to supersede them by law, as Draco's only remedy for crime was death. The idea of leaning on the more enlightened minority and with their aid appealing to the good sense, the reason, and the patriotism of the dissidents never enters his mind. He cannot understand that, when it has reason on its side, the minority of to-day becomes the majority of to-morrow. Such weapons as patience, tact, and forbearance are altogether absent from his armoury; and he seriously thinks that the Legislature intended Section 28 to be resorted to whenever the Commissioners might be considered to be taking a mistaken estimate of a portion of their duties, and yet without in any way disparaging the worth of the work already effected!" This settles the question, but as the fun is running fast and furious, we shall be glad in this English festive season to have another scene tacked to the *extravaganza*, and that scene should have for its *dramatis personæ* Mr. Cunningham as a witness before the Commission, and Mr. Cotton as the cross-examining counsel. We name Mr. Cotton, only because we cannot have a Ballantyne or a Buzfuz. Relying upon our own knowledge of the Calcutta bar, we could have much wished to see that gentleman who was long known under the *sobriquet* of "the fangless cobra"; but he has long since left India. Mr. Cotton would doubtless think it derogatory to his position and unbecoming his high character to allow anything like bullying or snubbing to tinge his examination, but we confidently believe that what he would elicit in sober seriousness would be infinitely more amusing and at the same time damaging to the enemies of the Calcutta Corporation, than any Old Bailey practice that the cutest wig can bring to bear on the subject.

TRANSFERABILITY OF OCCUPANCY TENURES.

Few points in connection with the Tenancy Bill have evoked a wider divergence of opinion than the transferability of occupancy tenures. While the socialistic caucus has advocated the most unqualified freedom of alienation in the hope of creating a body of peasant proprietors in Bengal, there are many who have halted on the banks of the Rubicon which borders on the gloomy future of the Bill and stood aghast at the reckless audacity with which the social vivisectionist is ready to perform his operation. To them as well as to the impartial critic a brief consideration of the subject may not be unacceptable. The substantial issues are whether the law has ever before conceded the right of sale to an occupancy rayat, if not whether the agricultural community have outgrown the legal rule, and exhibited facts from which the law-giver may justly infer a general consent on the part of that community in the direction of the proposed change and safely proceed to recognize such change by legislation.

As regards the first point, it will perhaps not be disputed, that in the present state of the law, an occupancy right is not *in se* transferable. Indeed, from the days of Harrington down to those of Sir Richard Couch, who delivered the judgment of the Full Bench in *Norendronath Roy versus Ishanchunder Sen*, nobody has ever contended that the right to occupy given by the 6th Section of the Bengal Act VIII, of 1869 or its predecessor Act X. of 1859, is capable of transfer or that the right to hold land on payment of rent connotes a right of property in it; the question, therefore, practically resolves itself into this, whether the instances of sale of occupancy hold-

ings are sufficiently large in number for purposes of legislative recognition. Now the very conditions under which alone such recognition is justifiable imply the common consent of the whole landholding community to variations from the written law, and we unhesitatingly affirm that the transactions which constitute such variation are not appreciably numerous, regard being had to the cultivated area or the number of holdings in Bengal. Thus from the Inspector-General's Returns for 1881-82 and 1882-83 the only two years for which complete statistical information is forthcoming, it appears that the area transferred ranges from 21 bighas and 673 bighas in Chittagong to 31,712 in Rajshahye and 38,250 bighas in Jessore respectively, how grotesquely absurd then would be the logic that because out of a cultivated area of 16,33,920 bighas in Chittagong 21 bighas in one year and 673 in another had been transferred by rayats, the whole of the landholding community of that district had by their silent plebiscite adopted the rule of transfer, or even taking the most favorable cases, because out of a cultivated area of 22,650,000 bighas only 31,712 bighas or *seven hundred and fifteenth part* in Rajshahye and 38,250 bighas out of 4,963,200 bighas or *one hundred twenty-ninth part* in Jessore has been transferred, the whole of the zemindars of those regions have sanctioned that rule. The idea that a small minority could control a group of social facts and import by their strength of will a local custom in a given locality would be disastrous to all judicial conceptions of custom and yet this is the impression precisely that possesses the legislative mind on the subject of the Bill. It is a calamity to the cause of truth when high officers of the Administration entrusted with the responsible duty of summing up at the Bar of the Imperial Legislature should in their zeal take shelter under data which are so utterly fallacious and misleading: even the total area * * * transferred during the two years barely aggregate, in round number 450,000 bighas or about *one sixty-sixth part of the total area held by tenants in Bengal* and when it is remembered that as a general rule the acceptance of the transferee as the tenant is contingent on the payment of a fine or *bonus* the customary indication of new attornment, and that until the landlord's consent to the transaction is thus purchased the vendor continues liable the facts become utterly divested of all their probative value. It is also of great importance to bear in mind that it would be absurd to assume continuity of phenomena throughout the districts of northern and southern, eastern and western Bengal. In some parts the custom so to speak is in a *nebulous* state of formation, in other parts it manifests more developed growth, but no where we confidently submit can it be correctly said to be *well established*. It will be observed we have solicited the attention of our readers purely to the legal aspect of the question; we have not touched upon the larger and more difficult question of expediency. The doctrine that "ends justify the means," has most unfortunately been permitted to cloud the consideration of a subject which essentially involves the rights of property of an important section of the community.

If the law never clothed the occupancy tenant with the power of alienation, the issue is narrowed down to the simple question as to whether the landlord has acquiesced in an exercise of that power, whether in fact he has abdicated his functions *quod* the tenants of his estate. To affirm, that because sales have been made unchallenged in one estate they indicate a custom to sell in another would be literally to place the vigilant and the prudent at the mercy of the idle and the careless, and under any circumstances to suppose that the whole body of landholders throughout Bengal forms a Parliament always in session, a fraction of whom can by their acts give law to all their brethren, would be to utterly ignore local peculiarities of social facts and idiosyncracies of local communities. We stop here to-day: we may possibly have to say something more on this subject in a future issue.

We have argued the subject here only from one point of view, and on the returns published by Government. But we hold the returns are totally wrong or grotesquely misleading. This we shall point out in our next.

LATEST NEWS AND NOTES

WE ARE informed that the Memorial meeting in honor of the late Babu Kristodas Pal will be held on Saturday the 10th proximo. It is expected that Mr. Rivers Thompson will preside and Sir Richard Garth, Sir Stuart Bayley, Maharaja of Darbhanga and others will address the meeting. We cordially wish it every success.

LORD RIPON has left the Indian shore in a blaze of glory. His Lordship received an ovation in Bombay, the like of which was not seen before in this country. All sections of the community joined in honoring the departing Viceroy. The enthusiastic reception which the good people of Bombay gave him, and the homage they paid to him, must have been exceedingly gratifying to His Excellency. We are told that His Lordship's public utterances at Bombay disarmed the most hostile criticism, and even some who came to curse remained to cheer. His Lordship made one of his most impressive speeches at the Town Hall. It is one of the frankest and most heart-spoken of his speeches in India. He did not say much about his Indian policy, and did not enter into any controversial subjects. He adroitly avoided these, and spoke eloquently upon the duty of England to India. He made a slight reference to those of his critics who held that in spite of his high endeavours he had actually accomplished little. Turning to the audience before him, he touchingly appealed to them and said "and with your verdict I will rest content." Whatever may be our views with respect to the substantial reforms effected by His Lordship's administration, we are bound to admit that His Excellency had the real welfare of our country at heart, and sincerely wished to write his name deep in the history of India. There is no doubt that there was but one feeling with regard to Lord Ripon from one end of the country to the other—a feeling of sincere respect and esteem for the noble endeavours he made to improve our political status as a people.

THE COMMITTEE of the Uttarpara Hi'akari Sabha held its twenty-first annual meeting at the premises of Babu Bijaya Krishna Mukerji, the public-spirited zemindar of Uttarpara, on Saturday last. Mr. J. Beames, Commissioner of the Burdwan Division, presided on the occasion. The report of the institution shows that the progress made by the society is steady, and that increasing interest is taken by the people in its welfare. We hope that under the fostering care of its President, the society will continue to perform the noble work it has been doing so satisfactorily within the last twenty-one years.

WE learn from the Resolution on the Report on the Administration of the Customs Department for 1883-84, that the net customs revenue collected in Bengal on all articles during the past year amounted to Rs. 2,04,87,365. Compared with 1882 there was a decline in the net duty of 1,62,282. This is, we are told, chiefly due to the falling off of Rs. 64,479 in the salt duty and of Rs. 1,40,473 in the export duty on rice. Looking to the returns for the several ports, we find that the net revenue of Calcutta has fallen by 2 per cent. while that of all the outposts has risen in varying proportions. The total value of the imports into Bengal, exclusive of Government transactions, rose from Rs. 28,37,25,812 to Rs. 30,06,49,292. The rise was most marked in foreign merchandise, where it exceeded one crore and 37 lakhs. The value of the export trade of the year was Rs. 43,56,07,096, against Rs. 42,46,65,199 in 1882-83. In the foreign trade, exports rose in value from Rs. 34,43,30,483 to Rs. 36,21,33,528, representing an increase in the value of merchandise of Rs. 1,95,63,306, and a decrease in treasure amounting to Rs. 17,65,261. Turning now to the trade of the different ports in Bengal, it is observed that the imports of Government stores into the Port of Calcutta increased by more than 18 lakhs, or 19 per cent., railway plant alone

showing an increase of more than 9 lakhs. Woollen piece-goods increased by more than 4½ lakhs, and paper and pasteboard by nearly 4 lakhs. Apart from Government transactions, the imports of the foreign trade of Calcutta rose from Rs. 23,39,17,864 to Rs. 24,40,48,995, or 4.3 per cent., and the exports from Rs. 33,40,63,753 to Rs. 35,07,72,762 or 5.5 per cent. The increase in imports was chiefly under the heads of railway plant, machinery, metals, cotton twist and woollen piece-goods; while the increase in exports occurred in raw cotton, indigo, wheat, hides and oil-seeds. On the other hand, the exports of jute, gunny-bags, lac and opium fell off in various proportions.

THE Collector of Customs makes the following comments on the prospects of the wheat trade:

"The three principal competitors in this trade with the United Kingdom are it will be seen, the United States, Russia and India. From the first, receipts show a heavy decline, while from the two others there have been very substantial increases, Russia still occupying the second place, notwithstanding the large increase in receipts from India.

"The extension of the Indian wheat trade to very large proportions is, I believe, merely a question of the opening out of suitable tracts of country by railways and of chief carriage. It may be said to be fairly ascertained now that the price of wheat in the large markets up country is substantially lower than the price at similar markets in the United States, while the quality of the wheat is good; in fact this price is so low that ultimately the bulk of the trade should be obtained by India.

During the past year freights by sea from Calcutta have been very low, and owing to this and the reduction in the rate of railway carriage mentioned in the last year's report, exporters have been enabled to lay down their wheat in London at considerably cheaper rates than in the previous year, and so to compete on better terms with America. The larger trade of the past year is therefore a very good index of the effect of cheap carriage. Low freights, however, cannot always be expected, as the dearth of employment for vessels, which caused a large quantity of tonnage to be available at low rates, cannot be looked for every year.

"The importance of India as a competitor with the United States has forced itself very prominently upon the attention of the growers of wheat in the Western States, with the result that prices at Chicago are reported to be lower than they have been for twenty years. Low freights, are also ruling so that the competition has become very keen; but still India holds her own."

"Cheap carriage to the coast," says the Government Resolution "is no doubt the main factor in the development of India's great resources as a wheat-producing country. But it is not the only one, and it is doubtful whether Indian wheat will be able to maintain a firm hold upon European markets, unless the cultivators do more than they have hitherto done to keep the quality uniform, and to avoid mixing and adulteration. It will be one of the duties of the new Agricultural Department not to teach cultivators details of cultivation which they know already, but to bring home to them the fact that if their products are to command a good price they must be up to a certain standard and be supplied under certain conditions." The duty is thus to be a moral and not a practical one. Any thing to justify the creation of a wasteful department!

THE REPORT of the Committee for the management of the Calcutta Zoological Gardens for 1883-84 shows that the total income of the Gardens during the year amounted to Rs. 52,398 against Rs. 41,149 in 1882-83, and the expenditure increased from Rs. 38,264 in 1882-83 to Rs. 52,277 in 1883-84. "The figures for 1882-83 are exclusive of the special grant of Rs. 8,000 made by Government for iron railings round the Gardens, and the expenditure incurred on account of the same. The receipts from donations and subscriptions show a further falling off as compared with the maximum income of Rs. 17,970 from those sources in 1879-80, and the minimum income of Rs. 1,500 in 1882-83. Only Rs. 550 were received under that head during the year of report, although the International Exhibition attracted to Calcutta a large number of wealthy persons from whom donations might have been expected."

WE learn from the report of the Commissioner of the Presidency Division on the state and prospects of the crops in that Division that there is no present cause of anxiety in respect of a scarcity in this Division. There has been a partial failure of the crops, it is true, but the district officers believe that no want will be felt. We only hope that results will justify their too sanguine expectations. We wish the reports that are sent in would give fuller accounts of the actual state of things. It would seem that the officers entrusted with the duty of drawing up these reports, have certain ideas in their heads regarding the alleged scarcity and want and suffering, and all the facts they collect have reference to their foregone conclusions. It can be easily understood that the public do not attach much importance to such reports.

SPEAKING of the letters which the Rev. Mr. Phillips, a Missionary of Berhampore, addressed to the *Englishman* regarding the severe want which was felt by the people in certain villages in his district, the Collector of Murshidabad gives an emphatic contradiction to Mr. Phillips' statements. In his opinion Mr. Phillips was led into an error by "the representations of persons who exaggerated all the facts and circumstances from motives not always disinterested." Referring to Mr. Phillips' statements regarding the condition of the people of Beldanga and the surrounding villages, the Collector says:

"Here, too, I found the same absence of testimony to show that actual want and suffering were being acutely felt. In the physical appearance of the people there was nothing to indicate this, although times are certainly hard. The pinch is naturally felt most by the cripples, lepers, blind, aged and infirm, who in all years have to subsist on charity. Even in the appearance of these persons, however, there was nothing out of the ordinary; nor did the number of beggars appear to be larger than usual. During all my enquiries, I found one family only the members of which were suffering from want of sufficient food. But I must describe the case: one man, himself weakly as to constitution, had to support a wife and three young children, the widow and three young children of a deceased brother, another brother lying on a sick bed, and his wife and two young children. Thus, three women and eight children were dependent on him for support. It was a Mussulman family, and the woman would therefore not go out and work on the roads. It was evident from the appearance of the children that they were not receiving sufficient food, for the maintenance of health; but this would have been nearly the same in years of plenty, as with rice at 25 seers for the rupee one man could not have earned enough to feed a large family like this.

"In dealing with this particular tract of country, I may appear to have been more discursive in my remarks than the nature of this report warrants; but I beg to explain that I have been led to do so because it was from this quarter that Mr. Phillips gathered his 'ounce of fact,' and it is my duty to show that he not only got short weight, but had material as well. In his last letter to the *Englishman* newspaper, dated the 15th November, he named a number of villages where he stated that want was so severely felt that immediate relief was necessary. I have had a careful and exhaustive enquiry made there, and find that in three of the villages named, Rejinapore, Bikalnagore, and Janpore, there will be over a 12-anna crop. Hence, want will never be felt there at all. It is thus also evident that Mr. Phillips had very little knowledge of his subject.

Any one who would read these remarks would draw but one conclusion from them. The Collector is not an impartial observer. He is bent upon showing that the evidence of Mr. Phillips is not trustworthy, and in doing so has indulged in language which plainly shows that he is animated by hostile feelings against the Missionary gentleman, for daring to draw public attention to the real condition of the people in his district. The Collector has overstepped the boundaries of fair criticism, and overlays his "ounce of fact," with extraneous matter which vitiates all his arguments.

THE proposals of the Howrah Municipality regarding the construction, on the north side of the bridge approaches, of a road leading to the ghat at the Howrah abutment of the bridge were communicated to the Commissioners by Govern-

ment. "The Municipality suggested that a piece of land to the north of that which had been occupied by the quarters of the bridge officers should be taken up for a new approach road to the river, and that the payment of compensation might be effected by inducing the owners of the land proposed to be taken to accept, in exchange, an equal area of the land attached to the Commissioners' dock, which adjoins. It was found, however, that the suggestion of the Municipality would not be a convenient arrangement for Messrs. Ahmuty & Co., the owners of the land adjoining the bridge, it being used by them as a slip-way for hauling up boats; and an alternative plan, which would give access to the ghat, was then suggested by the Commissioners. They proposed that, in order to set the whole of the road to the south of the bridge free for the use of passengers and bathers a piece of land belonging to the Commissioners should be made over to the Municipality for use, either as a carriage stand, depot for stone metal, or for any other purpose found suitable. They also offered to open the archway under the bridge abutment, which is at present enclosed and used for the storage of timber and bridge stores, and to make it available as a passage to the bathing ghat on the north side of the bridge, which could then be set apart exclusively for the use of females. The Municipality and Government agreed to these suggestions, and the necessary alterations to make the ghat to the north of the bridge abutment suitable for native women are now being carried out. This matter has been the source of much correspondence during past years, and it is satisfactory that it has now been settled in a manner agreeable to all the parties interested in the result."

We notice "that measures have at length been taken to carry out one of the main objects of the foundation of the Zoological Gardens by forming a dairy farm and the nucleus of a breeding establishment on the Bagunbari grounds. This area has been reclaimed and fenced in; sheds have been built; nine heifers and one bull have been imported from Australia, and some fine hybrid stock has been produced by crossing country cows with Gyal bulls. In the Lieutenant-Governor's opinion this is a most important and promising work, and if judiciously followed up, it may afford opportunity and justification for recognizing the Gardens as an institution contributing directly to the agricultural advancement of Bengal. In course of time the Agricultural Department now under formation will no doubt pay attention to the improvement of milch and plough-cattle; but before any such improvement can be attempted on a large scale, a long series of experiments will have to be made and possibly new breeds created. In this experimental stage, therefore, it seems to the Lieutenant-Governor that the Committee of the Zoological Gardens can render very valuable assistance. Among its members are several gentlemen whose scientific and practical attainments qualify them to undertake the task of improving the breed of cattle in Bengal; and it is admitted that by effecting even a commencement of such improvement much would be done to solve the question of improving the agricultural system of the country. If arrangements could be come to whereby in this question of improving the breed of cattle the operation of the Committee of the Gardens could be co-ordinated, as it is hoped to co-ordinate the operations of the Agri-Horticultural Society in agricultural improvement with the larger operations of the Department of Agriculture, much good to the country at large would undoubtedly ensue. Such co-ordination would permit of the efforts of the Committee being supported to some extent by funds from the budget of the Agricultural Department, and it would also enable the Committee to choose for these experiments other localities and climates throughout these Provinces than the single locality in which the experiment is now commenced. If all the agencies for improving the agriculture of Bengal in its widest sense were thus brought into contact, and directed into paths of mutually supporting and harmonious action in connection with the Agricultural Department which will come into being with the commencement of the new year, much more good is to be expected than from

isolated action, impeded possibly by narrowness of funds. The Lieutenant-Governor desires that the Committee will now consider these proposals, and if they approve of them, will draw up a scheme for giving effect to them. It may be also desirable that the Director of Agriculture should be added to the Committee, in order that he may place before them his views as to the actual wants of the country from the point of view of his Department." The Agricultural Society tried the experiment for many years and we have a vivid recollection of Colonel Friths' magnificent herd of cattle, but no good came out of them. But hope was the only thing left in Pandora's box before it was closed.

THE FOLLOWING is the latest Rurki Resolution regarding the admission of students to the Indian Engineering College:—

"The rules regulating the admission of students to the Indian Engineering Colleges, and the manner in which appointments in the Engineering Branch of the Public Works Department may be obtained by students of these Colleges, are contained in the Resolutions of the Government of India in the Public Works Department of 11th November, 1882 and 14th February 1883. These Resolutions modified the previously existing rules in several respects and notably in giving to students of pure Indian descent a preference over all other students for guaranteed appointments in the Public Works Department. As long ago as 1876 it had been remarked by the Secretary of State that very few persons of pure Indian origin succeeded in obtaining appointments in the public service through the Engineering Class of the Thomason College, and between that time and the year 1882 he had repeatedly urged on the Government of India the advisability of giving to pure natives a preferential claim to such appointments. The Government of India, while recognising the desirableness of attracting natives of India to the Engineering Department, hesitated to give an exclusive preference to one class of natives of India as defined by Statute, and the discussions on this point ranged over a considerable period. Ultimately the Governor-General in Council acquiesced in the proposals of the Secretary of State, being influenced mainly by the consideration that, owing to reductions in the Public Works Department, the number of appointments available for pupils of the Indian Colleges had become so small that in no other way could the object in view be attained. The number of appointments guaranteed to the four Indian Colleges was no more than six for the year 1885 and seven for 1886; under these circumstances almost the only way of facilitating the candidature of pure natives seemed to be to give them a preference over other students. Shortly after the issue of the Resolutions in question, memorials were received from various Associations of domiciled Europeans and Eurasians in India, remonstrating against the disadvantage at which persons of their class were placed by the new rules. These memorials were forwarded to the Secretary of State with the despatch from the Government of India of 28th July 1883, in which the Governor-General in Council remarked that although, looking to the small number of appointments involved, the memorialists appeared to exaggerate somewhat the practical effects of the rules upon their interests, he could not but think that "they had a certain solid foundation for their dissatisfaction, and that their representations deserved attention." The Governor-General in Council accordingly recommended that arrangements should be made in regard to the recruiting of the Public Works Department which would have the effect of increasing the number of appointments available for the Indian Colleges to eleven, and that with this extension of the field of employment the area of competition might again be widened so as to include all persons coming under the statutory definition of natives of India. Considerable correspondence has since taken place upon various points of detail in this scheme, and the Secretary of State has now decided that the annual recruitment from the Indian Colleges shall be fixed at nine. Although somewhat smaller than what they had recommended, the Government of India believe that this increase in the number of appointments, taken in connection with the changes made in other respects in the rules of admission to the College, renders it unnecessary to maintain a preference in favour of students of pure Indian descent, and that the object with which that preference was given may now be sufficiently attained without it. In future, therefore, all students coming under the statutory definition of natives of India will be eligible to compete for the guaranteed appointments in the Public Works Department."

The appointments will, for the present, be allotted as follows:—

To Thomason College, Rurki	4 and 5 alternately.
Seebpore	2 and 1
Madras Civil Engineering College	1
Poona College of Science	2

DR. DE JONGH'S LIGHT-BROWN COD LIVER OIL.—ITS GREAT VALUE AS A NUTRIENT FOR WRAKLY CHILDREN.—In cases of languid and imperfect nutrition often observed in children, the surprising efficacy of Dr. de Jongh's Oil is thus described by Dr. Edward Carey: "It is in the diseases incidental to childhood, that mainly depend on the mal-assimilation of the food in the pale cachectic child, when the anxious practitioner has exhausted the whole range of alteratives and tonics, that Dr. de Jongh's Cod Liver Oil will come in and satisfy his most sanguine expectation. Where the powers of life are low, it affords nourishment to the body when none other can be borne it furnishes the frame with fat in a truly wonderful manner; and administered as it is in Holland, to the delicate and puny child, who though not considered ill, is in that state of impaired health which would favour the development of disease, its extraordinary effects will soon be visible, after having taken it for a short period, in a return to health and strength which were before unknown, and which will be accomplished by no other remedy with which we are acquainted. Dr. de Jongh's Light-Brown Cod Liver Oil is sold only in capsuled imperial half-pints, pints, and quarts, with his stamp and signature and the signature of his sole consignees on the capsule and the label under wrapper, by all chemists, druggists and store-keepers. Sole Consignees, Ansar, Harford & Co., 210, High Holborn London.

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS.

MOFUSSIL SUBSCRIPTIONS.	Rs.	As.	P.
Executive Engineer, Shillong.....	9	12	0
Vice-Chairman, R. C. Committee, Ranchee.....	4	8	0
Head-Master Egerton School, Bhagulpore.....	2	4	0
Rai Jotindro Nath Chowdry, Barranagore.....	13	4	0
Babu Gonesh Chunder Sen, Jaukea.....	6	10	0
" Nando Lal Mookerji, Chowgong.....	6	10	0
" Bhagoboti Churn Ghose, Rangoon.....	3	4	0
" Monowari Das, Begoocherra.....	6	10	0
" Preonath Banerji, Sylhet.....	13	4	0
" Behari Lal Banerji, Magoorah.....	6	0	0
" Kader Nath Bagchi, Gwalior.....	6	10	0
" Aghore Chunder Mookerji, Durbhangha.....	10	0	0

Government Notifications

Calcutta Gazette—24th December 1884.

GENERAL.—16th December 1884. Moulvie Mobaruck Ali, Officiating Deputy Magistrate and Deputy Collector, Sarun, is allowed leave for one month, under Rule 2, section 138, chapter X of the Civil Leave Code, with effect from such date during the current month as he may avail himself of it.

Mr. N. S. Alexander, Commissioner, Dacca Division, reported his departure from India on furlough on the 14th ultimo.

Baboo Kheiser Mohun Mitter, Officiating Deputy Magistrate and Deputy Collector, Lohardugga, is allowed leave for nineteen days, under section 16, chapter II of the Civil Leave Code, in extension of the leave granted to him under the order of the 26th August last.

Baboo Chunder Seekur Banerjee, Officiating Personal Assistant to the Commissioner of Orissa, is allowed leave for ten days, under section 72, chapter V of the Civil Leave Code, in extension of that granted to him under the order of the 24th October last.

Mr. C. H. Maseyk, Officiating Deputy Magistrate and Deputy Collector, Burdwan, was in charge of the Raneeungee sub-division of that district from the afternoon of the 26th to the afternoon of the 29th November 1884.

Mr. G. G. Day, Joint-Magistrate and Deputy Collector and Subordinate Judge, is posted to the sudder station of the district of Nuddea.

Mr. H. Savage, Assistant Magistrate and Collector and Munsif, is appointed to act, until further orders, in the first grade of Joint-Magistrate and Deputy Collectors, and is posted to the sudder station of the district of Dinagepore.

Moulvie Syed Ameer Hossein, Deputy Magistrate and Deputy Collector, 24 Pergunnahs, on leave, is posted to Sealdah.

Lieutenant G. W. Keane, Durham Light Infantry, is appointed temporarily to be an extra Aide-de-Camp on the Personal Staff of the Lieutenant-Governor of Bengal.

Mr. C. P. Caspersz, Officiating Joint-Magistrate and Deputy Collector, is posted to the sudder station of the district of Chittagong, with effect from the 1st instant.

Mr. W. O. Reilly, Deputy Magistrate and Deputy Collector, Monghyr, on leave, is transferred temporarily to the district of Balasore and is posted to the sudder station of that district.

Moulvie Abul Khair Mohamed Abdus Subhan, Officiating Deputy Magistrate and Deputy Collector, Maldah, is transferred to Shehabad.

Baboo Uma Churn Gangooly, Deputy Magistrate and Deputy Collector, Culna, Burdwan, is allowed furlough for one year under section 132, chapter X of the Civil Leave Code with effect from the date on which he may be relieved.

Baboo Chunder Seekar Banerjee, Officiating Personal Assistant to the Commissioner of Orissa, on leave, is transferred to Burdwan and is appointed to have charge of the Culna Sub-division of that district.

Baboo Troylokya Nath Sen, Deputy Magistrate and Deputy Collector, Bongong, Jessore, is vested with the powers of a Collector under Act X of 1870 in that district.

Police.—Mr. J. Cowie, Temporary Assistant Superintendent of Police, Burdwan, is transferred to Manbhoom.

JUDICIAL DEPARTMENT.—Mr. H. F. J. T. Maguire, Officiating Joint-Magistrate and Deputy Collector, Jessore, is vested with powers under section 110 of the Code of Criminal Procedure.

Baboo Boloram Bose, Sub-Deputy Collector, Banki, Cutchak, is vested with the power to try cases under Act I of 1873 (the Opium Act).

The Lieutenant-Governor accepts the resignation tendered by Mr. A. B. Langham of his appointment of Honorary Magistrate of the Howrah Bench.

Baboo Sant Prasad, Deputy Magistrate and Deputy Collector, Mozufferpore, is vested with the powers of a Magistrate of the first class.

Mr. G. G. Day, Joint-Magistrate and Deputy Collector, Nuddea, is vested with the powers of a Magistrate of the first class and with the power to try summarily the offences mentioned in section 260 of the Code of Criminal Procedure.

Mr. H. Savage, Officiating Joint-Magistrate and Deputy Collector, Dinagore, is vested with the powers of a Magistrate of the first class and with the power to try summarily the offences mentioned in section 260 of the Code of Criminal Procedure.

Baboo Menu Lal Chatterjee, Subordinate Judge of Beerbhoom, is allowed leave for two months, under section 73, chapter V of the Civil Leave Code, with effect from the 31st January 1885, or such subsequent date as he may avail himself of it.

C. P. Caspersz, Officiating Joint-Magistrate and Deputy Collector, Chittagong, is vested with the powers of a Magistrate of the first class, and with the power to try summarily the offences mentioned in section 260 of the Code of Criminal Procedure.

Baboo Krishna Mohan Mookerji, Officiating Judge of the Courts of Small Causes, at Hooghly, Serampore, and Howrah, is promoted to the first grade of Subordinate Judge, vice Babu Mohendro Nath Bose.

Baboo Nuffer Chunder Bhutto, Officiating Subordinate Judge, Nuddea, is promoted to the second grade of Subordinate Judge, vice Baboo Krishna Mohan Mookerji.

Baboo Juggobundhoo Gangooly, Temporary Subordinate Judge of the third grade, is confirmed in that grade, vice Babu Nuffer Chunder Bhutto.

Baboo Uma Churn Dutt, Officiating Subordinate Judge and Small Causes Court Judge, Purna, is appointed temporarily to be a Subordinate Judge of the third grade, vice Baboo Juggobundhoo Gangooly.

Baboo Chakradhar Prasad, Temporary Munsif of the first grade, is confirmed in that appointment vice Baboo Juggobundhoo Gangooly.

Baboo Prasanna Kumar Sen, Temporary Munsif of the first grade, is confirmed in that grade, vice Mr. R. K. Sen.

Baboo Annada Prasad Chatterjee, Temporary Munsif of the second grade, is confirmed in that grade, vice Baboo Chakradhar Prasad.

Baboo Sashi Bhushan Chowdhuri, Temporary Munsif of the second grade, is confirmed in that grade, vice Baboo Prasanna Kumar Sen.

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A Special General Meeting of the Commissioners of the Town of Calcutta will be held at the Town Hall, on Tuesday, the 30th December 1884, at 3 P. M.

1. To adopt the report of the Town Improvement Committee on the structural improvements needed for the relief of street traffic in the business parts of Calcutta.

2. To confirm the Proceedings of the Water Supply Extension Committee, at Meetings held on the 10th and 22nd instant.

3. To confirm the Proceedings of the Special Committee appointed to consult about future and past loans, held on the 22nd instant.

4. To consider the Auditor's Report on the Police Accounts for the year ending 31st December 1884.

5. To confirm Proceedings of the Town Council, at Meetings held on the 25th October, 8th, 15th and 22nd November and 6th December.

6. To confirm the Proceedings of the Bustee and Tank Committee, at Meetings held on the 22nd October, 15th November, 3rd and 4th December.

7. To confirm the Proceedings of the Committee appointed to prepare a scheme for the sanitary and structural improvements of the town, at Meetings held on the 1st and 23rd instant.

At the close of the Special General Meeting, a Special Meeting will be held to consider an application for jute license for premises No. 5 Ahireetola Street.

ROBERT TURNBULL,
Secretary to the Corporation.

THE ANNUAL

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Hon'ble the Chief
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An Examination for admission to the Mechanical apprentice class will be held at the College, on Monday and Tuesday, the 19th and 20th January 1885.

Candidates must apply in writing to the Principal of the College not later than the 10th January 1885, for permission to appear at the Examination, enclosing a certificate of good conduct and a certificate of age.

For admission to this class candidates must be between ages of 15 and 17 years:—

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Algebra (to Simple Equations)

Euclid (Books I and II)

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Every applicant, before admission to the College, will be examined by the College Surgeon as to his Physical strength, fitness for manual labour, and eyesight. If this officer's report is unsatisfactory, the applicant will not be admitted.

Further particulars will be supplied on application to the Principal of the College.

Calcutta,

9th December 1884,

A. W. CROFT,

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TAGORE LAW LECTURES, 1880.

THE PRINCIPLES OF THE HINDU LAW OF INHERITANCE.

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BY RAJKUMAR SARVADHIKARI B. L.,
TAGORE-LAW PROFESSOR 1880.

OPINIONS OF EMINENT AUTHORITIES AND OF THE PRESS.

Sir Henry Sumner Maine, K.C.S.I., LL.D., F.R.S.
Professor Rajkumar Sarvadhikari—the author of an instructive treatise on the 'Law of Inheritance'..... A learned contemporary Native lawyer.—*Dissertations on Early Law and Custom*, pp. 56-64.

Selections from the records of the Government of India. Home Department, No. cxcv., p. 38

...The best original work on Law published last year—perhaps the grandest yet received in the Library—was Babu Rajkumar Sarvadhikari's Tagore Lectures on the *Principles of the Hindu Law of Inheritance*. It is an important work on the Hindu Law, written with the erudition and ability of a master.

DR. RAJENDRALALA MITRA, LL.D., C.I.E.

...The learned author is well deserving of the praise given and a great deal more. He has produced a work which marks a new era in Hindu authorship. To the practising lawyer the work does not, perhaps, afford much new matter, for the law he cares for is not *Hindu Law*, but the case-made-law which English judges, totally ignorant of the original sources of that law, have thought fit to designate as such; but to the historical student, those who desire to know what Hindu law really was, what fundamental principles underlie it, and how it was gradually developed, it will prove a rich mine of information.

Edinburgh Review, October 1883, p. 338.

An accomplished Native lawyer.

Westminster Review, New Series, No. 126,
April 1883, p. 552.

Mr. Sarvadhikari has shown a great capacity for research and intellectual labour.

Saturday Review, March 24 and 31, 1883.

...A systematic treatise on the Hindu law of inheritance..... What gives the work a real interest beyond its strictly technical value, and makes it a sign of the times, is that Professor Rajkumar Sarvadhikari fully perceives the wider bearings of his subject. He is not only a Sanskrit scholar, and learned in the wisdom of his own people, but he realizes the importance of Hindu law to Western scholars for the purposes of comparative and historical jurisprudence.

Law Times, April 21, 1883.

This book is one which it takes some time and trouble to master, but it is well worth while to do so, except from the narrow point of view of a purely English lawyer.

It remains to congratulate the author, which we do with much pleasure, on the great skill he has shown in writing an interesting and valuable law book in a foreign language. It is not too much to say that many an English text writer might take a lesson from this book in the use of his mother-tongue.

Pioneer, July 20, 1882.

The volume before us forms a complete guide to the complex questions of inheritance which are continually arising, and is therefore extremely useful to law students and lawyers. But, apart from its legal merits, there is much to interest the general reader, both in the account given of the *sradhas*, and in the historical development of the law of succession from the Vedic ages to the present time.

Before taking leave of the author, we would give as our opinion that, for a very long time, no such intelligent, clear, and masterly exposition of such a difficult branch of Hindu law as inheritance is, has been brought before the public. A far more thorough knowledge of what the true Hindu law on this subject is, will be obtained from reading this book, than

from wading through all the reports of decided cases that have ever been written.

Calcutta Review, October 1882.

Professor Sarvadhikari has produced, under the above title, a most acceptable addition to the literature of Hindu law. Of the origin of this law in general, he gives a useful summary, and using, as he does, the aid not only of eminent European Sanskritists, but also of the great modern thinkers, Maine and Herbert Spencer, he has given a substantial contribution to the philosophic history of the subject.

Referring to Professor Sarvadhikari's book all who are curious to see the details of development as shown by the Bengal school, we will here only note that it adopts the more liberal and progressive doctrines in regard to every subject on which there is a conflict between the schools.

Civil and Military Gazette July 4, 1882.

To the class of readers for whom it is primarily intended, the work should prove of great value, and to those also who are no longer students in the sense of learners, but who still desire to devote their leisure hours to increase and verify their knowledge, the work in question should afford considerable interest. The remaining chapters of the work are devoted to a detailed discussion of the rules of inheritance prevailing under the Mitakshara and Dayabhaga systems of law and contain much interesting information. But we have said enough to show that Mr. Sarvadhikari has chosen for the subject of his lectures a branch of Hindu law, which is not only of the greatest practical importance, but which even from a purely historical point of view, possesses great value for the student of comparative jurisprudence.

Madras Times, September 1882.

The most interesting and important part of the work before us is that which works out principles of inheritance, and shows their gradual elaboration. The tables of succession, at the end of the tenth lecture give a comprehensive and comparative view of the law of succession, which, we think, will be as valuable as it is interesting.

Hindoo Patriot, June 11, 1883.

A remarkable volume.....His (the author's) worst enemy, if he will but read his book, cannot deny that he has not only done full justice to the subject, but has performed his task in a way not attempted by many of his predecessors.....It is a valuable contribution to the history of the development of the Hindu law of succession and inheritance. The above extracts will give the reader some idea of the thoroughness with which our author has performed his task, and the very interesting manner in which he has placed a dry and technical subject before the general public.....He has brought a fund of learning to bear on this recondite subject, of which an erudite Brahmin might well feel proud.

Express, August 5, 1882.

They [the lectures] all show a thorough familiarity with the subject, and an extent of reading and research for which, to be candid, we were not prepared.

Bengalee, August 5, 1882.

It is worthy of note that the [social] revolution to which we have just referred was not without its influence upon the principles of succession and inheritance, as they prevail in the different schools of Hindu law. Our author has described that influence with a minuteness of detail which is highly commendable. His first five lectures relate to the nature and character of the *Sradha* ceremonies, while the last five are exclusively devoted to an examination of the changes which have gradually taken place in the Hindu law of inheritance and succession, since its promulgation by the saints and sages of the primitive age. We will conclude our remarks by saying that Babu Rajkumar has done his work admirably well. As a historical record of the principles which govern those questions [of inheritance], his lectures are of great value to the general student and the practitioner alike.

Reis and Rayet—July 14, 1883.

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25	36 0 0	40 0 0	46 0 0	25	25
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